

U.S. ROUTE 50 OVERPASS, WESTBOUND

HAER No. DC-40

(War Department Bridge No. 6)

U.S. Route 50 and Arlington Boulevard, spanning George Washington Memorial Parkway
Washington

District of Columbia

HAER
DC
WASH,
579-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service

Department of the Interior

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HAER
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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: George Washington Memorial Parkway milepost 0.34, 1.6 miles from Interstate 395; carries Arlington Boulevard and Route 50 over GWMP east bound lane, on Columbia Island.

FHWA Structure No.: 3300-014P.

Date of Construction: 1946.

Type: Steel girder bridge.

Significance: Built as part of the Pentagon Road Network.

Project Information: Documentation of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Clara Barton Parkway was undertaken as a multi-year project by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a combined division of the National Park Service, Robert Kapsch, Chief. The project was sponsored by the Park Roads Program of the National Park Service, John Gingles, Deputy Chief, Engineering and Safety Services Division. The Project Supervisor was Sara Amy Leach, HABS Historian. Bridge reports were prepared by Elizabeth M. Nolin (1988); Michael P. Kucher (University of Delaware, 1993); and Jennifer P. Wentzien (University of Washington, 1994).

HABS Report No. VA-69 prepared by Timothy Davis (University of Texas) provides an overview history of the entire parkway project. Jack E. Boucher and Jet Lowe produced the large-format photographs. The Washington-based summer 1994 documentation team was headed by landscape architect Tim Mackey (Harvard University, Graduate School of Design).

II. DESCRIPTION

The Route 50 Bridge, westbound was built in the mid 1940s as part of the extensive Pentagon Road Network. The bridge was built under contract as War Department Bridge No. 6. The bridge carries two lanes of traffic in the direction of Route 50, westbound. It was reconstructed in 1966.

The superstructure is a steel girder and floor beam system with a total length of 365'. The longest span is 108'. The concrete deck is 66.9" wide. It has a steel railing on the parapet. The deck is sodded on either side of roadway.

III. SOURCES

Plans for Proposed Project 1A28, WDB#6. Microfiche reductions of original construction drawings may be on file at the Bridge Inspection office of the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, Federal Highway Administration, Sterling Virginia.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), No. VA-69, "George Washington Memorial Parkway," 1994. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Bureau of Public Roads. Construction Photographs of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. 1930-32. Record Group 30-N, Boxes 241, 242. Still Pictures Division, National Archives and Records Administration, Archives II, College Park, Maryland.